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MISCELLANEOUS.

[From the Southern Literary Messenger.]

JUDITH BENSADDI.

A FAIR.

CHAPTER I.

SOMETIMES a single incident at the outset of a man's career, may determine the course and color of his after life. He may find himself placed, unexpectedly, in such critical circumstances, that by a decision which cannot be delayed, he has the prospect of making, yet the apprehension of making, his fortune during life.

An unlooked-for tide in his affairs may seem ready to bear him away to the islands of the happy; but he fears by the way some hidden rocks and quicksands by which all his hopes are in danger of being wrecked and engulfed forever. He stands upon the shore in trembling perplexity, strongly tempted yet afraid to embark. The tide of fortune begins to ebb; warning him that time and tide wait for no man; and that procrastination will be the death of opportunity. He still hesitates, painfully suspended between the attractions of hope and the repulsive suggestions of fear. The tide is gone; the happy opportunity has fled; he discovers too late, that the danger was imaginary and the offered good, unobtainable. Then does he bewail his indecision, and reproach himself though life for the neglect of that golden opportunity. A bright lovely object had, like a heavenly meteor, flashed upon his sight, and kindled his feelings to a glow. As it shone upon his enraptured vision, it invited him over the waters to its region of felicity; but when he delayed to answer the call, it vanished forever from his sight, and left him weeping upon the desolate shore. His only consolation was, that the result, though unfortunate, was not fatal, and still left open to him the humble path of exertion and the ordinary prospects of life, to which he had formerly looked. Reflection teaches him the salutary lesson, that the accidental opportunity was an act of Divine providence, throwing rare circumstances into conjunction, to show man that his way is not in himself; and that his own conduct in so extraordinary a case, is evidence of weakness and fallibility, which should humble him beneath the mighty hand that sways the destiny of man.

Such a critical tide of fortune once occurred in the affairs of my life. It gave occasion to these reflections; and was of so rare and striking a character, as to make a story somewhat interesting and instructive. I proceed to record it, not only for the entertainment, but the admonition of the young reader; who should learn from it to act promptly as well as prudently, in critical conjunctures, and never to indulge any feelings in regard to human affairs to such excess as to disqualify himself for the exercise of a cool and dispassionate judgement. This is the lesson which I would now teach him, from the most affecting portion of all my experiences.

CHAPTER II.

I was born and educated in Rockridge, a county that lies in the great valley of Virginia, and derives its name from that famous curiosity the Natural Bridge. My parents were respectable, but in such moderate circumstances, that they could afford me nothing more than a good education. Our residence was on the North River side, near Lexington, the seat of Washington College, an institution which has never made an ostentatious display of its claims to public notice, but which has nevertheless produced a large number of good scholars and excellent men. Here, of course, I pursued my liberal studies. We lived so near the village that I could attend all its schools without boarding away from home. This prevented in my case, what often happens in others, a breach of domestic attachments by early absence and long association with scenes and persons at a distance from the parental domicile. All my pleasures during the freshness and ardor of youth, were associated with home and kindred and the beautiful scenery of my birthplace.

Having by years of diligent application, obtained a distinguished place among the graduates of my college, which does not bestow its honors with a lavish hand, I betook myself ambitiously, and I may add, successfully, to a course of professional studies, under a learned gentleman of the village, whose office I frequently visited while I kept my lodgings at home. My industry was the more energetic, because my worldly hopes depended on my personal exertions; and I was resolved to make up for my want of fortune by mental accomplishments and professional ability. Before I had finished the extensive task allotted to myself, I suffered a disheartening check upon my exertions. Excessive application to books, gradually brought on me the symptoms of a consumption—the penalty often paid for literary ambition. Still, though aware of danger, I was loath to quit my books. But the frequent cough and the hectic spot on a pale cheek, alarmed my

friends so much that they called in a physician to aid them with his authority in persuading me to desist. His warning voice added to their anxious remonstrances, at length overcame my reluctance to quench the lamp of study; yet I did it reluctantly; even when I knew the persistence would extinguish the lamp of life; so treacherous a guide is even the noblest passion, and so needful of control. I contented, however, to fly from the sharp air of the mountains and to spend the approaching winter in the warm plains of the South. I promised also to abstain from all study, and to apply myself wholly to the social pleasures and amusements, which might cheer my drooping spirits and promote the restoration of my health.

When the chill winds of November admonished me to depart, I prepared to travel along on horseback. My simple preparations being soon completed, I bade a sorrowful adieu to my friends and to the homestead of my youth, where every object was pleasant and dear to my soul. Never had I felt so melancholy. My previous absences from home had been only short excursions for amusement; my local attachments were strong and unbroken; my little circle of kindred and friends were nearly all the world to me. My disease I knew to be always insidious & often fatal. I was subjected constitutionally to fits of mental depression. How could I be otherwise than sad? I was in fact plunged into the deepest gulf of despondency. When I reached the top of the Blue Ridge, a lonely fugitive from home, breathing short from obstructed lungs, going far away for the first time, to live and not improbably, to die among strangers, I turned to take what might be my last look over the woody hills and the cedar cliffs, that bent the river holt round my paternal home. I saw the smoke in bluish wreaths ascending from the peaceful nook. I began to weep—yes, though a man grown, I wept like a child, when I waved my hand to bid thee unutterable adieu to my native land, and turned my horse's head down the southern declivity of the mountain.

I pursued my journey moping and sometimes despairing, but occasionally interested, and the more so as I went farther on, with the new scenes through which I passed, and the new aspects of human life that occurred to my observation. I arrived safely, though still in low health and spirits, at a village near the Savannah river, where I purposed to sojourn during the winter. The location was suitable in every respect; the climate was mild, the society good, and one of my former college mates was the most popular physician in the place. By him I was soon introduced into some of the most agreeable families in the town and neighborhood. Now I learned from experience, what I had heard from the reports of travellers, how engaging are the charms of southern hospitality. My case seemed to excite so much sympathy among these benevolent strangers, as if I had been of their own flesh and blood. They ministered to my diseased mind a thousand delicate and consoling attentions. My rustic backwardness in strange company was quickly subdued by their easy and open simplicity of manners—that true politeness which is not an imitation of conventional forms, but an agreeable manifestation of kind feelings. New scenes, cheerful conversation, pleasant rides in the soft winter air, and all the nameless appliances of watchful benevolence to a drooping invalid, soon turned the ebb of my health and spirits into reviving flow. My appetite was restored, my cough ceased, my respirations became free, the purple tinge of health revisited my cheek, and all the world again brightened around me: the enjoyment of mixed society, had completely tapped a new fountain of pleasure in my soul; and the stream that flowed from it, if not so deep as some others was yet so sweet and sparkling, that I was resolved no more to neglect its pleasant entertainments. My new circle of hospitable friends had gained such a hold upon my affections, that I felt much less than I had anticipated, the weariness of a long absence from home. But still I did not forget my dear native mountains. In the solitude of my chamber, I often longed for their whispering shades and mossy rivulets; but I could bear my absence without repining now because I hoped, ere long, to see them again, as I had often seen them with delight, raising their green heads aloft in the verdant air, and bathing them in the cerulean light of heaven.

CHAPTER III.

To confirm my health and to enlarge my scanty knowledge of the world, I resolved to visit Charleston on my way home, and thence to take a sea-voyage round to the Chesapeake. Accordingly, when spring began to smile over the woods and fields, I bade my southern friends an affectionate farewell, and took a seat in Charleston stage, which left the village two hours before sunrise. I found two other passengers within; but discovering by starlight only, that they were a man and a woman, I said nothing to them, and they said nothing to me, until day-light. We seemed on both sides, to feel a diffidence of venturing to address a stranger in the dark, when we could not see even the color of his face. They once in a while spoke a few words to each other in a low and remarkably sweet tone of voice. This awakened in me a curiosity to see what manner of persons they were, whose half-whispered words sounded musically. When the dawn began to disclose the personal appearance of my fellow travellers, I was struck with their beauty. They were evidently brother and sister; the one being a masculine likeness of the other. They were in the bloom of youth, with complexions between brown and fair, raven black locks, and eyes moderately large, not quite jetty black, but star-bright interpreters of intellect and feel-

ing. Their faces were roundish oval, all the features in just proportion, and the expression of the whole vivacious and benign. In person, they were well shaped, the limbs plump and rounded, their stature of the middle height, and the body inclining to fulness. Nothing else in their personal appearance struck me as remarkable until I saw them walk, and then I noticed an easy and graceful agility of movement, indicating muscular elasticity, sprightliness of mind, and, as I thought, a cultivated taste.

The young lady struck me at once, and indeed at all times, as the most beautiful gem of humanity that I had ever seen. At first I considered her, but rather doubtfully, as a brunette—a sweet pretty brunette—but when I looked at her in the open air, and the full light of day, the ebullient lustrous eyes, contrasted so strongly with the delicate hue of her complexion, that I pronounced her so fair as to be only florid. I endeavored to criticize every part of her person and features—but, except what I have mentioned, I discovered nothing in the superlative degree—her round forehead was not very round; her nose had no very marked character; her mouth was neither wider nor narrower than common; her lips neither thick nor thin. The only striking circumstance about her mouth, was a sort of tremulous vivacity of muscle, ready to catch and to express the slightest movements of the soul. As to her chin and cheeks, I could not say that they were or were not dimpled; for the play of her features made dimples appear and vanish alternately. Nor could I call her neck long and arched, as the necks of beauties are usually described—this young lady's was neither long nor short, though it tapered a little. Her foot was not very small, not a withered Chinese foot, but in good proportion to the person which it had to support. As to other first appearances, my fellow passengers were genteelly but not showily dressed, and had all the air of good breeding.

We soon dismissed all caution and reserve. We commenced conversation, and in a short time understood one another so well, as to feel assured that nothing would be said or taken amiss; so we poured ourselves forth without measure, and were soon flowing on with a full current of loquacity. My fellow passengers delighted me more than strangers had ever done—their speech was so intellectual, yet so modest—was set off with such a sparkling vivacity, yet with such a kindness of manner, that it raised in me the highest tide of social animation that I had experienced since my melancholy departure from home, or perhaps the highest that I had ever experienced.

But who were my new acquaintances? I had a great desire to know, but the impertinence to ask. They spoke English with the perfect ease and idiom of well-educated natives of England or America, but in their persons differed from my notion of the Anglo-Saxon race. The course of our conversation, however, soon led us to speak of the people of different countries. I alluded to my Virginia mountaineers—they, to their fellow cockneys, and to London as their native city. Their name, Bensaddi, soon afterwards mentioned, sounded in my ears like an Italian name; and I shrewdly conjectured that their dark eyes and hair, with their brumottish complexion, were due to the influence of an Italian, perhaps of a Sicilian sun, upon their ancestors.

I was now curious to know the object and course of their travels. As if he had perceived my curiosity on the subject, the open-hearted young gentleman took occasion to tell me the following particulars. The father having some business with a planter in the West Indies, had sent his son to attend to it; the sister took a fancy to accompany him, and had, after much pleading, obtained their father's consent, that she might see the curiosities of nature in the torrid zone, and the 'black man in the miseries of West Indian bondage, and the white man in the highest state of freedom, as he is in your happy country,' said the young gentleman, politely.

'Miss Bensaddi sees man in the extremes of slavery and freedom here,' said I, candidly. 'Not so far gone in the dark extreme of slavery,' said he, 'for West Indian bondage is worse than yours; though I confess that the mildest form of slavery is a degradation bitter to the feelings of mankind.'

'Yes, sir, to us it would be intolerably galling, because we have the birth-right and the sentiment of freedom. But happily for the poor negroes, they have not known the state of freedom, nor imbibed its sentiments; hence they are not aggrieved by a sense of degradation and wrong. Born to slavery, they grow up with minds conformable to their condition, and rarely, if left to themselves, brood over the hardships of their lot; but finding their parents, themselves, and nearly all their race, placed in it by Divine Providence, their only thought is to make the best of their condition which is not without its comforts and advantages.'

'True, sir, you have accounted for a fact, which is little known in England, and which both surprised and gratified us, when we observed it in America. The slaves, in general, seem to be as contented and merry a set of beings as any in the world. They laugh, and sing, and dance, not to "drive dull care away," for dull care seems never to visit them; they seem to think, as they themselves belong to their master, he is bound to take their cares into the bargain; so they throw the vexations back upon his shoulders, and leap for very lightness of heart at their deliverance.'

'Now brother, (said the young lady, playfully,) did I tell you when we left Savannah, that if you staid much longer among these merry slaves, you would renounce abolitionism and defend

slavery as the best condition of poor laborers. You know what care worn-wretches most of our hiring laborers and small jobbers are at home, especially the mechanics and manufacturers; how hard they must work for a scanty subsistence, while they are healthy and strong; how precarious their resources, and how little they can hope to lay up for their future support; and consequently, what a miserable prospect the have for the coming days of sickness and old age—having nothing better to rely upon than the comfort of the parish hospital, with a scanty dole of public charity often grudgingly administered. What a contrast of your light-hearted slaves, who are sure of a competency without care on their part, a provision which they look to as their right, and enjoy without the mortification of being dependants on charity. Thus released from the care of providing for themselves and their families, their only remaining care is how to get easily through the hours of labor, and merrily through all the rest. Now, brother, have you not proved that we ought to renounce abolitionism.'

'Not yet, my sister. You have made an ingenious web of my argument, and thrown it dexterously over my own head: but you have not so fastened the loopholes, but that I might escape its entanglements. Every thing that has length and breadth has two sides, you know. So has slavery, and so has free labor. I turned up the bright side of slavery, and you showed the dark side of free labor. The contrast was strikingly advantageous to slavery—so you clapped, without further ceremony, this inference upon me, as the conclusion of the whole matter. That was not fair—was it, sir?'

'You need not appeal, brother, for I acknowledge that I was too hasty. But, sir, (said she, addressing me) we are sincerely gratified at one result of our observations thus far in America. We have discovered that negro slavery is not on all sides so dark and doleful as we had imagined. It has, indeed, some cheerful sunny spots, delightful to look upon. Brother, tell Mr. Garama of the pleasant scenes that we witnessed at Col. P.'s, where we saw the negro wedding.'

That sight would have convinced any one that slaves might be happy in their slavery. It was an example in point—or what I have heard Dr. Magruder call, an ocular demonstration. Do tell it, brother.'

'Tell it yourself, Judith, for you enjoyed the sight fully as much as I did, and you probably remember the circumstances better.'

A slight tinge of rose-colored modesty suffused her cheek, as she hesitated a moment to answer. 'Well, sir, an impassioned sketch is an apt exaggeration. We went by invitation to the hospitable mansion of Col. P.' On approaching the house we observed a large party of slaves, before one of the quarters, by the yard fence, and were struck with their tidy apparel and joyous looks. Seeing us regard them with interest, Col. P.' remarked they were to have a wedding among them that evening. When we expressed our pleasure at their appearance, and our curiosity to observe their manners & customs, he told us that we could have the opportunity of witnessing the whole affair, if we pleased, as some of his family always attended their marriage ceremonies; and that we could look in upon their supper and ball, after the ceremony was over. We gladly embraced the offer, and were much gratified with more than the novelty of the sight. These slaves had more comfortable accommodations and were more civilized than the West India slaves; and we thought, more also than the generality of slaves that we had seen in this country. The reason was, that they had an excellent master. I never anywhere saw so glad some a wedding party. There was, of course, nothing elegant or refined—but there was enough of fiery in their dresses indeed, a profusion of gay colors and flaunting ribbons, and gawags in their bushy curls; with all which their simple fancies were mightily pleased. I was, myself, exceedingly gratified with the full hearted joy that sprang up in them, and sprang out of them too, when the fiddle and the dance gave vent to the fountains of feeling within them. Merry jests started forth every instant, and jovial laughter burst in claps of delight from their souls. We looked through a window upon this scene of harmless mirth and joy, that gushed light and free from the hearts of nature's children; and we could but consider these outpourings of pleasure as a reward—if not a full one, still a real reward—bestowed peculiarly on them for their submissive tools at a master's bidding;—and while I looked and reflected on what I saw, I felt a strange mixture of emotions; tears trickled down my face—for what I could not tell—they might be tears of joy or tears of compassion, or both together—and while the tears came, I sometimes found myself laughing—but whether out of diversion at their oddities or out of sympathy with their merit, I do not know; for I seemed to have all sorts of incongruous feelings at the same time.

'I thought, (continued the young lady, wiping her eyes) that next to the blessing of good parents to take care of us in childhood, was the blessing which poor ignorant laborers have in a good master to direct their labors, and take care of all their interests.'

'Now sister, (said the young gentleman, smiling, with a tear in his eye) do you not see that you have become an advocate of slavery—quite a plauder, and as earnest in the cause as a feed burrister?'

'If I am earnest, you must observe, brother Bill, that I am pleading only in a particular case—and if I advocate slavery, it is only in such cases as the one which I have described.'

'During this conversation, my fair companion had gradually acquired a spirit and energy of expression, of which we all partook, but which in her bordered on the impassioned eloquence of enthusiasm. Her delicate frame had begun to

dilate with swelling emotions, and all her features to express the glowing fervor of the soul. I began to expect from her a lofty outpouring of soul; and would probably have been gratified if the coach had not stopped at the breakfast house so soon, and turned the bold current of our conversation into the shallow and discursive channels of small talk.

I need not say that I was highly pleased with my fellow travellers. The subject of our last conversation was a serious one, but well adapted to draw forth their moral sentiments and to try the strength of their reflective powers.

I have attempted to give the thoughts which they uttered, and to imitate their style of expression—but there was an indescribable something in their manner, especially the sister's, which gave an extraordinary interest to their conversation. The brother's language was peculiarly witty and amusing, and withal very sensible; but when Judith spoke—the soft melody of her voice, and after she became excited, its lively intonations—the kindling lustre of her eyes, the play of her expressive features, with the winning modesty of her manner, and the undefinable eloquence of both her manner and her style—made all that she said go warm and animating to the heart; as if an ethereal fire had penetrated to the sources of animation and given an exhilarating impulse to all the principles of life. Not to admire such a person with such a mind, I considered impossible.

'I could love her, (said I to myself, when I got out of the stage, and saw her trip gracefully into the house,) yes, I would love her with all my heart—but how rash and vain were that for me—her accidental companion for a day! I must not indulge this amatory propensity. The warmth of so delicious a passion might solace and delight me to-day, only to afflict me with aching regret and hopeless longings, after she will have left me to-morrow. I must close my breast against this dangerous Cupid. I see him now, with bended bow and malicious eye, watching for an avenue to my heart.'

CHAPTER IV.

After resuming our seats in the coach, we began to speak of our journey to Charleston and our ulterior courses of travel. My freehearted companions promptly communicated their plans. They would spend a few days in Charleston, and then take a packet and go to Norfolk by sea. They would thus avoid the disagreeable route by stage, through the tame sand-flats & miry swamps of the Carolinas; disagreeable at all seasons, they had been told, but more so in the winter. March, from Boston they would visit Washington, Philadelphia, and so on to Boston where they intend to embark finally for England.

My heart gave a leap—a higher one than necessary, I thought, when I heard of the days in Charleston and the voyage to Norfolk.

'Your route to Norfolk, (said I to Mr. Bensaddi,) coincides at all points with mine, and if mutually agreeable, I should be glad of your company all the way.'

'Very agreeable, I assure you, and I esteem it a fortunate circumstance that we shall have your company so far.'

His pleased look confirmed his complimentary declaration, and my instinctive glance, (or, was it accidental?) at Miss Judith's face caught the smiling token of her satisfaction, as it played over her beautiful features. But what did that signify? Travellers generally like company, though it be not particularly agreeable—but for all that, when the smile was caught playing so sweetly over her countenance, I felt it glide down immediately into my heart, and nestling there, produce a series of agreeable little titillations. But Mr. Bensaddi thus continued.

'We are total strangers in this country—we have not a single acquaintance higher than Boston. To meet with a companion every way agreeable is very gratifying to a land traveller, and particularly so to a voyager. One who has travelled much feels this pleasure the more sensibly, because he has been annoyed with accidental companionships, which not only plague him for an hour, but stick and grow to him like barnacles and make heavy sailing for the poor wight, whether it be on land or water. I am the more inclined, therefore, to stick like a barnacle myself, when I fall in with a choice companion. I wish your route coincided with ours all the way.'

'I wish so too, Mr. Bensaddi; but my route from Norfolk leads me westward to Richmond, & thence still westward to my home in the mountains. I should be much pleased if your curiosity led you to visit my native valley—its scenery is fine, and well worthy of a traveller's attention.'

'I should delight to visit the Natural Bridge, (said Judith, with kindling eyes.) Is that near your residence?'

'Within fifteen miles; and that single object would reward a trip to the mountains.'

'Writers describe it as a great curiosity; but I have a very imperfect conception of it.'

'Turning to her brother, she said, "Oh brother! how can we leave the continent, where such an object may be seen, and not go to enjoy the sight! I would cheerfully travel a thousand miles to see that bridge, so grand, so beautiful.—Nature's sole specimen of divine art in the construction of a bridge. Is it not, Mr. Garama? Or does the world contain another?'

'I think you are right, Miss Bensaddi; though Humboldt describes a natural bridge in the Andes; but it is not like ours. There is a solid arch, but very inferior, and also a broken arch composed of loose rocks, which by a rare accident in falling down a deep narrow chasm, got wedged together and continued firmly lodged against the sides at a great height from the bottom. The bridge itself is of difficult approach, and the bottom of the fissure is inaccessible.'

'Oh, yes; now I remember to have read of it.'

That must be a wild place—but it is not compared to your Natural Bridge. It has less appearance of danger in its formation—it cannot impress you with such awe by its immovable solidity, nor with such admiration at its lofty proportions, struck off with Nature's careless but master hand. It is not very wonderful to see large rocks caught midway down a great mountain cliff, though the scene be romantic enough—but to see a real bridge, built by nature for a highway, and fully designed for it, then cut without aid out of the solid mountain rock—defying all human power to shake it, and human art to imitate its magnificence—springing its grand arch aloft—so mighty a mass, yet so high, so airy, so light. Oh, brother, can we not go to see it? I know that your time in America is limited; but if you will give me this sight, only for a day, you may hurry me as rapidly as you please over the rest of the journey.

My dear sister, I would gladly afford you that pleasure, and gladly enjoy it myself; but I am doubtful whether we can spare the time. Yet, if we have a quick passage to Norfolk, we may possibly run up the mountains and snatch a glance at so wonderful a specimen of nature's handiwork—or rather, unhandiwork—for nature works without hands, I believe.

Miss Judith, in relation to the inquiry which you made awhile ago, I have another curiosity to mention—one of little notoriety as yet, because it is hidden in the mountain wilds of Virginia—which may boast of having the only curiosity comparable to the Natural Bridge; that is, the *Natural Tunnel* among the Cumberland mountains, in the southwestern angle of the State. These notices of the bridge and the tunnel, with some allusions to various particulars of my native land, awakened a lively interest in my fellow travelers. I saw it, and was glad. Their eager inquiries about the scenery, the population, the literary institutions and state of society, not only gratified my habitual feelings of patriotism, but strengthened, while it gratified a new feeling as yet so undeveloped in the recesses of the heart, or so concealed under the disguise of other feelings as to be unacknowledged even by consciousness. I knew only that I thought the bright-eyed beauty who had been shining now for hours into mine eyes, to be the most bright-eyed of beauties and to be, moreover, in mental qualities, the most attractive vision that had ever realized itself to my perception. I may have conceived the like when fancy garnished some ideal picture of a lovely woman; but here seemed to be the living substance of what poets had taught me to imagine, but experience had never taught me to expect. In this iron age of degenerate humanity. True, this lovely creature did not appear to be exempt from defects of character. I could discover on a few hours acquaintance, that she was subject to lapses of mental excitement, bordering on enthusiasm; yet did she not lose in my view one feature of loveliness on account of this over-excitability; for here I acknowledged a point of agreement in our tempers.

I had called up prudence, and set that dignified virtue to guard, with hundred eyes, the avenues of my heart against the insidious Cupid. And lo! said something within me, I have discovered, that she is a woman, that she is a woman for a day only, but for a whole quarter of a moon—and according to the proverb, "Circumstances alter cases." Well, said prudence, faintly, if it do alter cases, it is not always for the better. Does this new state of the case diminish either the probability of your falling in love, or the danger of your falling afterwards into something less pleasant? This remonstrance was so feebly uttered, that prudence was evidently yielding to somnolency. Oh, thou drowsy Argus! What subtle enchanter had so soon drugged thy hundred eyes to sleep!

That I well remember, that I sought occasion to set forth to these strangers all that was attractive in my country; and that, by portraying its landscapes, and whatever else might commend it to my fellow-travellers, my imagination then, more than ever before, bloomed with rich ideas, and my youth shed forth every rising conception with a fluency of eloquent expression, which I can but imperfectly recall in making this record.

Among other entertainments which my native land affords to the visitor, especially if his mind be imbued with the love of nature, I mentioned the fine views from the mountain tops; and I suggested that I had made some delightful excursions to the House Mountain near Lexington, & could never forget the splendid prospects that its lofty summit spreads before the spectator.

This suggestion had the intended effect. My companions instantly besought me to describe my visits to the House Mountain. No longer coy, with memory and imagination on the wing, I was commencing a prelude to my story, when the coach stopped for dinner and gave me the opportunity of arranging my thoughts a little. As soon as we resumed our journey, I was called on to proceed, which I did substantially as follows.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

IMPORTANT NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Orders have recently been dispatched to all the naval stations to have every thing put in readiness for immediate service. The late movements of the British authorities respecting the Maine boundary line is the probable cause.

Commodore Kenshaw, of this station, has received instructions to complete the steam frigate now on the stocks with all possible despatch, and Capt. M. C. Perry, late of the Pulton, is to take command of her. Additional workmen have been employed, and she is now nearly all planked. The Independence and Fairfield, just arrived from Rio, and the Relief, are to be kept in commission. The Columbia and John Adams shortly expected from the East Indies, are also to be prepared for sea again immediately. The ships of war now on the stocks are to be got ready for launching, and the two seventy fours moored off the Navy Yard, to be prepared at short notice. The crews of those vessels just arrived are to be paid off immediately so that they can spend their money and re-ship again. None of the officers can have leave of absence, but are to hold themselves in readiness for service.

Such is the nature of the instructions lately received from Washington, and such have been sent to every Navy Yard. What do they indicate? N. Y. Herald.

ABOLITION PETITIONS.

The letter of the Vice President to Lewis Tappan, of New York, upon declining to present to the Senate an Abolition petition, signed by 140 women.

Washington, March 23, 1840.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th instant was duly received, enclosing a petition to Congress, signed by 140 women of the city and county of New York, praying for the abolition of slavery and slave trade in the District of Columbia, and in those Territories of the United States where they exist, and to admit no new slave State into the Union, requesting me to lay the same before the Senate. I have also received your letter of the 17th instant, requesting me to inform you when I would present the petition. Having declined to present the petition, it is, perhaps, due to the fair petitioners, and to you, their organ, as well as to myself to state some of the reasons which dictate my course. The constitutional right of petition is contained in the first article of amendments, as follows:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Congress has never made a law abridging this right, but the people assemble at pleasure, and petition at pleasure, for a redress of grievance. Of course, this part of the Constitution has not been violated; and if it did not exist, Congress could not, constitutionally, have passed such a law because no such power is delegated to Congress. This right, reserved to the people, does not devolve upon the presiding officer of the Senate the obligation of presenting petitions of every conceivable description.

There are considerations of a more political, as well as of a constitutional nature, which would not permit me to present petitions, of a character evidently hostile to the Union, and destructive of the principles on which it is founded. The patriots of the Revolution made great sacrifices of blood and treasure to establish and confirm the doctrines set forth in the Declaration of Independence. Each was then an independent sovereign; and to form a perpetual confederacy for the safety and benefit of the whole, embodying the great doctrines of the declaration, a compromise of interest and feeling was necessary. That compromise was made; and the principle which your fair petitioners are now agitating, was settled. The right of regulating and abolishing slavery was reserved to the States; and Congress have no more right to destroy slavery in Virginia and Maryland, than they have to establish slavery in New York or New England. The right of petition for these objects is reciprocal; and the obligation of the presiding officer to present a petition to the Senate, if it exist in either case, is equally strong in both. But I cannot recognize the obligation in either case, though I acknowledge the right of the people in both. Is a difference made between the District of Columbia, and the States of Maryland and Virginia, from which it was taken? The question was settled in relation to this District by the formation and adoption of the Federal Constitution, when it was a part of those States; and a subsequent cession of jurisdiction could not deprive the citizens of the rights already secured to them by both the Federal Constitution and the Constitutions of their respective States. The right of Congress to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatever, does not mean omnipotent legislation. Congress have no right, in the District of Columbia, to take away the right of trial by jury; to pass an ex post facto law; to abridge the freedom of speech or of the press; to establish religion by law; nor to destroy the rights of property, or personal liberty of the citizen. These reserved rights are as sacred in the District of Columbia as in the State of New York. They have the same right to consider the abolition of slavery in New York a grievance, and petition to Congress to establish it there, as the citizens of New York have to consider it a grievance in the District, and petition Congress to abolish it. Their right in either case to assemble peaceably and make their petition, I do not call in question; but the obligation on my part to present it to the Senate, I do not admit.

If a number of citizens should consider a Republican Government a grievance, and petition Congress to establish a monarchy; if others should consider religious toleration a grievance, and petition Congress to destroy heresy, by abolishing all religious sects but their own, I should not consider it my duty to present their petitions to the Senate, nor do I consider it my duty to present a petition, the certain tendency of which is to destroy the harmony, and eventually to break asunder the bonds, of the Union.

In regard to new States, the case is, if possible, still stronger. They must be united upon terms of equality. Each State having reserved the right of regulating this subject for itself, no one can be constitutionally deprived of the right. The State of New York has abolished slavery; she holds her place in the Confederacy. It is her own policy; and if it shall be her pleasure to change it, Congress cannot interfere. So, if new States are admitted, they will stand upon an equality with New York. They may establish or abolish slavery at their pleasure, and neither Congress, nor any other State, will have any more right to interfere with the subject, than with the laws of primogeniture in the British empire. The object of the petition does not affect the abstract question of slavery; that it is a subject which the Abolitionists of the free States can no more affect than they can that of the privileges of the British nobility. The plain question is this: shall we continue a united confederated Republic, or shall we dissolve the Union? If the prayer of this and similar petitions should be granted by a majority of Congress, the inevitable effect would be an immediate destruction of the Confederacy; and, with it, those bonds of affection which have united us as one great, one harmonious family. It has been my grief to observe a recklessness on the part of some, whom I otherwise highly esteem, showing an utter disregard of all the consequences which must result from the perpetual agitation of this subject. We have an interest at stake too dear to be compromised.

for a phantom, which we can never gain, however enthusiastically we may pursue it. As a free, a powerful, and a happy nation, we stand unrivaled in the annals of the world.

Turning the eye alternately to every region of our country, it is greeted with the smiles of happiness, and the scenes of liberty, and peace, and plenty; and yet imagination frequently pauses upon the localities which remind us of the price at which these blessings were gained. Do we compare our condition with that of adjoining colonies? We look to Quebec—and there Montgomery fell. We return to view the beautiful town of Boston and take our stand on Bunker Hill—there Warren died. We cross the delightful fields of Connecticut—there Wooster bled. We continue our observation through the Jerseys, till we reach Princeton—there Mercer perished.

Even from the Capitol in which we are assembled, we cast a look to the South, and the heights of Vernon remind us that the mighty Washington slumbers there, who forsook these peaceful shades for the toils, the dangers, and the privations of the sanguine field, where, with thousands of others equally brave and patriotic, the enemies of our rights were defeated. It is at the price of their blood that we, in common with your fair petitioners, now enjoy these blessings. When these rights were again threatened, I regarded it my duty, in humble imitation of those apostles and martyrs of liberty, to offer my own life upon the altar of my country, to confirm to you and to them the permanent enjoyment of those blessings. A merciful Providence protected me, and I find a twofold recompense in the preservation of our institutions.

With these views, I cannot reconcile it to my sense of duty to present the petition. I shall enter into no discussion on the principle of slavery, as that is not involved in the subject. I can view it in no other light than that of an interference with the constitutional rights of others, and in such a way as tends to the destruction of the rich inheritance purchased by the blood and toil of the fathers of the Revolution. Another circumstance exists, aside from what I have noticed above, which would make me reluctant to present this petition—it comes from ladies, ordained by nature, and by the customs of all civilized nations, to occupy a higher place in society than that of petitioners to a legislative body.

If courtesy could induce me, on a subject that could not become a matter of injurious notoriety, to present a petition from females, yet I should regard it purely as a matter of curiosity, and not of constitutional right. The rights of woman are secured through the coarser sex—their fathers, their husbands, and their brothers. It is the right of a woman to maintain a modest retirement in the bustle of politics and war. She does not appear at the polls to vote, because she is privileged to be represented there by man. She does not serve on juries, nor perform the duties of the ballot or execution, because it would be a degradation of her dignity. She does not take up arms and meet her country's foes; because she is a privileged character, and man is her substitute, who represents her in all these drudgeries. Every man is bound by the perfect law of custom, of nature, and of honor, to protect and serve her. This is the light in which the law of God places the women. She is veiled and silent even in religious discussions; not because she is unworthy, but because she is exempt from the strife of man; and it is her right to observe that retired modesty which renders her the object of admiration and esteem. In this respect the Constitution of our country is established upon the principle of the Divine law. If the rights of man are inviolable, they are of course confirmed to women; and the most dignified of the sex are the least inclined to meddle with public matters. I presume females, who sign petitions, would not consent to the publication of their names. I should be very reluctant to be accessory to an act which should, in any degree, cast a shade of reproach upon an individual of that sex, whose modest dignity is the glory of man. Thus, sir, I have frankly stated my views in returning the petition, as I now do.

I trust you will not deem it disrespectful to you nor to the ladies for whom you act. Be assured that, for yourself individually, I entertain high respect; and could I serve you personally, it would give me great pleasure to do so. Though a stranger to the signers of the petition, I do not doubt the respectability of their character, and I deeply regret being requested, on their behalf, to perform an act with which I cannot consistently comply; but with the views which I entertain, I cannot better testify my regard for them than by returning the petition.

Most respectfully,
R. H. M. JOHNSON.
LEWIS TAPPAN, Esq., New-York City.

THE TEN HOUR SYSTEM.—It would be seen from a notification published in the Washington Globe, that the President of the United States has joined the Trades Unions, and has ordered that all Mechanics and Laborers, employed upon the public works, under the authority of the Departments, shall be required to work only according to the Ten Hour System. This is making a serious inroad upon the long established habits of the industrious portion of our community. It appears to us not very judicious, and certainly not very economical, for the President of the United States, by his official authority, to introduce such a change, in the usages of the country.—*Boston Advertiser*.

[The preceding paragraph from a Federal paper, shows with what sincerity the opposition claim to be the friends of the Laboring Classes. A movement by the President of the United States in favor of the workmen, is set down at once, as "not very judicious and certainly not very economical!"—*Eastern Argus*.

SOMETHING SINGULAR.—We are informed by Mr. Samuel Goodwin of Fairfield, in this county, that he has a heifer, which, when she was 13 months and 18 days old, had a calf that weighed 48 pounds. We stump the whole Union, disputed territory and all, to beat this.—*Skowhegan Sentinel*.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, APRIL 7, 1840.

Young Men's Convention.

The Democratic Young Men of the several Towns and Plantations in Oxford County are requested to meet at the Court House on Paris Hill on WEDNESDAY, the sixth day of May next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of effecting a more thorough organization under the broad banner of DEMOCRACY, and to take such measures for the same as may be thought necessary and proper. All who take an interest in the political affairs of the country are respectfully invited to attend.
March, 1840.

THE DEMOCRATIC YOUNG MEN'S COUNTRY CONVENTION.

MR. EDITOR.—I am happy to see that at least a portion of the democracy of our County are awake to their duty, and are determined to make all necessary preparations, for carrying on a campaign in which much strength will be needed, and in which our enemies will contest strenuously every inch of ground. It will be a mighty contest, for in it is involved the great and vital interests of the nation—the great questions which divide the democracy and the modern whigs. If we still hold the reins of government we may hope to bring about that which is most desirable, a reform in our currency, if we loose, and a man is placed in the Presidential chair who like apopet will dance as Clay and Webster may move the wires, then we may expect a national bank fastened upon us with all its attendant evils, and fastened too in a manner never to be removed but by force, aye, by anarchy and civil war. But the only prospect of their success is our inaction. But if I judge correctly of the times the democracy throughout the nation are already on the alert. That the watchword of "be at your post," has already been given and that it has sounded from one extremity of the Union to the other.

Yes I am glad that so good a spirit is abroad in this county, our strength has hitherto been unknown even to ourselves. Then let the war-cry be sounded. "The enemy are upon us"—that enemy that would rob us of equal rights and equal privileges. Let the sound be given from hill-top and valley. Let it reverberate from one extremity of our county to the other and then when election day comes you will find a mighty gathering of hardy freemen, a gathering that shall strike terror and dismay into the ranks of our enemies, a gathering that shall make them cry out as with one voice, what shall we do to save our sinking party, to revive our fallen hopes? Then turn out to the Convention both young and old, go and see, and associate with your fellow labourers in a good, a just, and a holy cause. Go and there interchange such views as will make all of you wiser and happier and will kindle anew in your breasts the fire of patriotism, of equal political rights.

The Convention is called by the young men.—I like their spirit they are the ones to be most active in a political as well as a martial campaign. "Young men for war and old men for council." Then let the old turn out and council with the young. Yes, all meet together as a band of brothers joined and be agreed in a holy cause upon which hangs the future destinies of our happy country. REMEMBER THE SIXTH OF MAY, AND BE PUNCTUAL.

WHIG CATECHISM.

Who is the greatest General?
William Henry Harrison of Ohio.
Why?
Because he never lost a battle.
Why did he never lose a battle?
Because he never fought one.
Who is the bravest man?
Gen. Harrison.
Why is he called the brave?
Because only about a hundred of his men were massacred at Tippecanoe; because Major Croghan defended Fort Stevenson contrary to the orders of Gen. Harrison; because he was defeated at the river Raisin; because through a spy glass, he saw about six hundred of his men killed or taken prisoners at the attack upon Fort Meigs; and because Col. Johnson killed Tecumseh at the battle of the Thames.
What badge of honor was conferred upon him for these distinguished services?
The ladies of Chillicothe presented him with a petticoat.

Who is the poorest man?
Gen. Harrison.
Why?
Because he has received a princely fortune from the public coffers.
Who is called the peoples log cabin candidate?
Gen. Harrison.
Why?

Because he lives in one of the most splendid establishments on the Ohio, and receives a salary of ten thousand dollars a year on which to support his retinue of servants.

"Who is the weakest man?"
Gen. Harrison.

Why?
Because he received his petticoat with gratitude and has consented to be put under guard-ship.

High School!

We would give notice to the Public, that a School will be opened in this village, on the first Monday in May. The various branches of education, will be comprised in those commonly taught in High Schools, including Latin, Greek &c. Tuition \$3 per term. We hope our friends in the neighboring towns, will give it a liberal support.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Money, being the common medium of exchange among all civilized nations, must consist of a material which has a value of its own, which value any man is willing to accept in exchange for his property. From its particular form and stamp it is called money in contradistinction to other articles which have value, and which are not and cannot easily or usefully be made a medium of exchange.

It is true that different nations in earlier and less civilized periods of the world have chosen different materials as their medium of exchange, but all having some similarity to the present. As the world has advanced in civilization and trade all other materials have given place to the precious metals, which derive their peculiar value from the smallness of their quantity, their being little subject to corrosion and diminution by use, their susceptibility of division, their convenience in transportation, and their quantity being increased only by dint of industry. By law these metals are divided into different coins, each bearing upon its face its relative value, which furnishes its holder the superscription of the authority by which he is authorized to circulate the same.

The circulation of gold and silver, like every other commodity, depends upon its plenty and scarceness, or the quantity in circulation, compared with the demand for it, subject to the labour required in extracting it from the mines and refining it. Gold being much more valuable than silver is occasioned by its scarcity or the greater amount of labour in procuring it. The comparative value of silver to gold in this country is about as 1 to 15 11/12, and the relative value is about the same in all parts of the world, as it costs but a trifle to transport either, and both being articles of great value every where.

The expressions that we so often hear that "money is scarce," "times are hard," &c. &c. are in a great degree cant phrases, unthought of expressions with but little real meaning, as the quantity of the material of which it is manufactured is at all times about the same. We may safely say that it increases by working the mines as fast as it diminishes by its manufacture into articles of ornaments and dress.

And now let us see what are the real money wants of the community. The mechanic wants money enough to pay his labourer and to pay for the raw material which he consumes. The merchant wants money enough to pay manufacturers and producers for their goods, and the last consumer needs it to pay in exchange for what he eats, drinks and wears; and if either of these classes have not enough for these purposes there is thereby a scarcity with that particular class; but in this case there is not a real scarcity or deficiency of coined metals. Such scarcity arises from a want of industry or by turning their industry into a misjudged channel. For instance, if the attention of the farmer of this State was directed exclusively to the growing of pork for the Boston market and before that article had become marketable with us, the market at Boston should be fully supplied with pork from the western States, then that of our farmer would remain unsold, not because money is scarce, but because there is no inducement for its possessors to part with it for so small a price as they would necessarily have to, and instead of sacrificing their pork our farmers would obtain money on credit. At such times money in this State would be worth more than in the west, as it would command a larger interest, consequently money would be brought here from the west; and in this way a scarcity of real money will ever work its own cure without any apparent distress among the people. Thence when more money flows into any section of the country than is required to pay for what that section actually produces, it becomes of less value, and the money price of merchandise of greater, and thus it would gradually change from one section to another, industry being the only means of ever keeping money in any section of country.

When Spain and Portugal first worked the rich mines of South America, large quantities of gold and silver were carried into those countries, the effect of which was to make the people indolent in the extreme, inasmuch that they chiefly discarded their productive avocations, and sought riches from the mines of the New World. The result was to drain these two countries of money to procure the necessities of life, even faster than the mines afforded it, which has been the principal cause of their degradation and distress, for they were not only losing in point of wealth, but were making barren one of the finest portions of the globe as well as debasing the great mass of the people and bringing them into a worse than Russian state of vassalage. Hence we may infer that the only way for a people to be, and remain prosperous, is to foster and encourage domestic and internal industry. But to suppose that a great quantity of money is to bring about so desirable a result is as futile as the attempt to mingle oil and water, for money will never stay in a country that does not contain goods upon which it may be expended, but will ever seek the objects of desire.

Having endeavored to show what money is, its value, use and its operations in business, we will now turn our attention to its paper representatives, which is more directly the object of my letters.

Promissory notes and bills of exchange are of equal value with money only while they can be readily exchanged for it, and must lose their worth in proportion as the credit of those who issue them, sinks; nor can any one doubt the truth of this or its just application to all paper money or bonds and notes taken instead of real money.

The past history of this and other countries shows too plainly that the want of all methods of supplying

a money as a public can be of circulation as can be should of show the to the Co great du nate urg sociates to the gro The assi the viol as revel assassin happy fell a dea ple, and a But wh go back the crisi when the facts upon It has sho done, and thrown into no nation ill regulate Our pre fact is the speculation impoveris or than fill ruin, the preservation let the spec retrievable to rise; and who have l of his care have shone plendent of dark and fair sky of hidden from of only as This sation, dog travagance walking " putting a industry, a upon their Morality, wouted su deserts her meek and ing subject dissipation mendous i by the mon stitutions of them the look down paper mon laborer as the telerer land.

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A Good Riddle.

"There was once, you know, a King of Castile called Don Alonso the learned; and by I think he was more learned than wise, for he had the presumption to say, that if his counsel had been taken at the creation of the world, he could have arranged things much more conveniently than we find them; and the ancient writings tell us that God punished him for his impiety with many and grievous afflictions in his old age. Well, Don Alonso was pricking on towards Aranda at the head of a troop of lancers, when darkness overtook him near the convent of San Millan De Cogollos. Of course, it was resolved, as of common accord, to demand hospitality of the good fathers of San Millan, and the party rode up to the gates, nothing doubting they should be cordially received, and should meet their repast by emptying a few of the wine-skins of the monastery. But when they arrived at the gate, and asked for admission, the porter surly bade them begone, supposing, or pretending to suppose, that they were a band of mountain outlaws come to rob the convent; and it was some time before Don Alonso's people could bring the friars to their senses, and procure admission within their walls; nor even then, until the soldiers had begun to devise means of entering by force.—The King, by this, had fallen into a towering passion which it required all the obsequiousness of the Abbot, and all the hospitable attendance of his monks, to pacify and allay. But in discussing the contents of their cellar and larder, Don Alonso came to be somewhat mollified, and thus ended with imposing on the monks such terms as none but a book-worm and stargazer like himself would have imagined."

"Father Cayetano," said he, "you or your people have done that which I might well visit upon you to your cost; but I feel inclined to admit your humble acknowledgements, and overlook your offence; and I will do so, provided you will be prepared on the morrow before I depart, to answer me four questions. You shall tell me how much the moon weighs; how many casks it would take to hold the sea; how much the King of Castile is worth; and what I am thinking of at the time; and woe betide you and your house, if you fail to answer me correctly to all these enquiries."

"Hereupon the old King retired to rest leaving the monks sorely puzzled by the questions which he had given them for meditation; for they had abundantly more wealth than wit.—They pondered in vain upon the odd fancies of the King, and morning found them as ill prepared to solve the mysterious questions as when they were first pronounced. When honest Jose, the miller of the convent, came in the morning to leave them wherewithal to furnish forth the royal table for breakfast, he found the monks full of trouble and dismay; and on learning the cause of alarm from the porter, he undertook to answer the King's questions, if they would permit him to assume the gown and tonsure. Father Cayetano saw not well what course to pursue; but reflecting, at length, that the miller was known for a shrewd and cunning varlet, and that, if he failed to satisfy the King, it might all be passed off as a matter of merriment, he concluded to venture upon the expedient suggested by the miller. Jose, in due, was carefully shaven, dressed in the garb of the order and presented himself at the appointed time before Don Alonso.

"Well," says the King, "how much does the moon weigh?"

"A pound," replied the miller without a moment's hesitation.

"A pound," demanded the King;—"how do you make that out?"

"Why," said Jose, "the moon has four quarters, all the world knows; and four quarters make but one pound; and if you think it weighs more you are welcome to send and have it weighed."

"The King was at a loss to know what to say at this; and so he proceeded to the next question.—"How many casks would it require to hold the sea?"

"Only one, to be sure," said Jose "provided it be large enough."

"It was impossible to dispute this; so the King had no alternative for it, but to put his third question.—"How much am I worth?"

"How much is the King of Castile worth?" said the miller;—"why twenty nine pieces of silver."

"Only twenty nine pieces of silver!"—cried the King, in a rage.

"Yes," said the miller, "for our Saviour was rated and sold for thirty; and I put you but one piece below our saviour."

"At this palpable evasion of his inquiry, the King began to laugh, and could do no less than put his last question.—"What am I thinking of at this moment?"

Hitherto Jose had received and answered the questions of the King with an air of mock dignity verging into broad humor; but he saw that the crisis was now at hand, and that he behoved him to take heed what he did; and it was in all humility that he replied.—"Senor, you are thinking I am the Abbot Cayetano."

"To be sure," said the King; "and who else should you be? And seeing you have answered my four questions, I suppose I must be as good as my word, and suffer your inhospitality and laziness to go scot free."

"At this, Jose fell on his knees at the feet of the King, and confessed the trick which the larder monks had fallen upon to escape from their embarrassment; and the King being highly amused by the whole affair, very freely pardoned the imposition, and took the witty miller into service; and Jose played his part so well in those times, when blows were the current coin of all castles, that some thirty or forty years afterwards the house of San Millan, in considera-

tion of a welcome addition to their glebe and vineyard, performed a bounteous allowance of masses for the spiritual repose of Don Jose de la Molina."

THE FEDERALISTS AND THE LABORERS.

In the year 1834—the panic year—a number of laborers at Thompsonville, in this State, declared they would no longer labor for their employers without an advance of their wages. They said their labor was not properly paid, and that others also, ought to be paid.

The whigs, in whose employ they were, seized these laborers, tore them from their families, and threw them into jail. Here they lay in prison among felons, and term after term were dragged into Court to defend themselves, for the crime of asking higher wages. These are facts which are in the recollection of all our citizens.

The federalists who imprisoned the laborers, and the whole party who went with them, in making it a crime to demand higher wages, are now just before election, concerned about the reduction of wages. Does any one misunderstand the object? Does any one believe that the rich employers are afraid they cannot pay their workmen sufficient compensation? The "operatives," as they call laborers in Europe—men without civil rights—who cannot vote—where the whole power is placed in the hands of the rich—where labor is regulated by law—made by the employers, to oppress the employed; have merely a bare subsistence given them. If they demand more, they are treated as the Federal nabobs of Thompsonville undertook to treat their laborers—as criminals.

The Thompsonville whigs cited the customs of Europe as justification and precedent for them—Labor in Europe is ground down into the dust, not by hard money, but by aristocratic wealth and power, and oppressive laws. There is an aristocratic feeling in this country, which is to be found among the whig employers—not among the democratic laborers. But the aristocracy are asking that power may be put into their hands to take care of the democracy. The Banks want to take care of the people. The employers want to take care of the employed. The idle wish to take care of labor. The rich wish to take care of the poor.—Hartford Times.

HARD CIDER.—If there be any liquor more stultifying than another, it is "hard cider." It stupefies all mental and moral faculties, and makes the drinker lazy, senseless, cross and stupid. It is ten times worse than rum or whiskey. The Indians are noted for becoming intoxicated with it, and hence the expressions "cross as an Indian," "drunk as an Indian." Yet this, the whig aqua, is General Harrison's favorite beverage, the liquor by which he is inspired. They are for a hard-cider government; a cross, stupid, idle lazy, obstinate, sleepy, stultified administration. Heaven defend us from such a whig President!—Post.

A duel.—An Editor Fighting.—The Franklin Louisian, Republican, says:—"By the steamboat A. Fussler, which arrived here on Monday last, we learn that a Mr. Carmack, one of the editors of the True American, and Mr. Harry, brother to Harry of the N. O. Academy, fought a duel on Saturday morning, in which the former was shot through the body, and the latter in one of his hands. We have not learned that either is dangerous."

"I'm working hard for you," as the new cider said to Gen. Harrison.

"I've got three nurses," as the General said to the milk-man, when he called at the "log cabin," to leave a pint of milk.

NEW SPRING GOODS

JUST RECEIVED FROM BOSTON

BY

ELI HOWE,

CONSISTING of Blue, Blue-Black, Brown, Claret, Indigo, Olive-Green, and mixed

BROADCLOTHS, CASSIMERES

and

Satinets, Buckskin and Buffalo Cloths.

—ALSO—

A good assortment of Cloths for Summer wear. Superior Black and Blue-Black Silk Velvets.

One case of **Brush Hats**, also **Cloth Caps** of various and the most recent fashions.

Gentle Kid and Buckskin Gloves a prime assortment. Also Indiarubber and Worsted Suspenders.

Shirting and Shirts, bleached and unbleached, and striped shirtings, Drilling, &c. A large assortment of W. I. GOODS, likewise Crochery Glass and Hard Ware.

All of which will be sold as cheap for Cash, country produce or approved credit, as can be purchased in this vicinity.—Paris-Hill, April 13, 1840.

Paris-Hill, April 13, 1840.

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SHERIFF'S SALE.

PURSUANT to warrants to me directed by Alanson McLean, Esq., Sheriff of the County of Oxford, requiring me to collect the sums assessed in the County Tax for the years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838 and 1839, on the following described townships or tracts of land situated in said County, (when the tax was assessed) not taxable by the Assessors of any town or plantation, which remain unpaid as follows, viz:—

Andover Surplus, West.	Tax for the year 1836,	\$3 43
do	do 1837,	3 75
do	do 1838,	3 75
do	do 1839,	3 41
North half Township No 2, 4th Range,	do 1835,	1 23
do	do 1836,	1 69
do	do 1837,	1 84
do	do 1838,	4 41
One fourth of	do 1837,	48
do	do 1838,	2 36
North half	do 1835,	3 24
do	do 1836,	3 24
do	do 1837,	3 54
South half	do 1837,	3 69
do	do 1838,	2 27
Part of	do 1837,	1 87
Surplus of Township Letter C.	do 1834,	1 50
do	do 1835,	1 30
do	do 1836,	1 78
do	do 1837,	1 95
do	do 1838,	1 95
do	do 1839,	1 75
10, 16 of Township Letter C, adjoining B	do 1838,	1 60
7/8 of Township No 4, 2d Range,	do 1836,	2 84
do	do 1837,	3 06
do	do 1838,	3 06
Whole of	do 1839,	3 32
do	do 1836,	2 99
do	do 1837,	3 27
do	do 1838,	3 27
do	do 1839,	3 27

And unless said taxes and all necessary intervening charges are paid to me, the subscriber, on or before Monday the eighth day of May next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, so much of said land will then be sold at Public Vendue, at the Court house in Paris in said County as will be necessary to satisfy said taxes and charges.

Dated at Paris, this eleventh day of March, 1840.

31 u. PHILIP CLARK, Sheriff of Oxford.

THE FAMILY NEWSPAPER

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SATURDAY COURIER.

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When individuals wish to subscribe to the Courier, a sure way is to enclose the money in a letter, and direct it to us.—These Postmasters will probably politely remit, for we wish them in all cases, if it meet their pleasure, to act as our agents.

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ICP—Our friends, the Postmasters, will please oblige by remitting arrangements and new subscriptions.

Any of our country brethren who insert our Advertisement, will receive the Courier regularly.

Letters and communications should be addressed, postage paid, to

M. MAKIN & HOLDEN.

LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the Post Office at Paris, Me., April 13, 1840.

Bolton Isaac

Briggs James

Marden Jonathan

Marshall Henry

Oldham Ann

Porter John A.

Prentiss Joseph W.

Royal Alvin

Ryerson Cushman

Stevens Almira

Swett Lavin

Stevens Benjamin

Thayer Aris

Tribo Adia

Walker Clarendon

Wickett Clement

Whitford Thomas

Winniford Luther P.

Wharf Joseph H.

Weeks Josiah K.

GEO. W. MILLETT, P. M.

ISAAC RANDALL,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

DIXFIELD, ME.

ON THE SMALL POX.

To the Citizens of Boston & State of Massachusetts.

SMALL POX is a complaint more attendant on childhood than on any other time of life; the human species, however, is subject to it at any period of existence. The cause of this disease does really consist in a portion of the worst kind of humors having become mixed with the circulation of the blood, either from contagion or otherwise. It is this humor which produces shivering, fever, heaviness, restlessness, and pain all over the body, because the circulation is impeded, and the natural course disordered by the bad humors. This is the first period.

The blood, in this stage, as well as in all other appearance of disease, fights against these impurities, and carries them to the capillary vessels in order to cause an eruption and thus to throw out these humors. This is the second period.

The skin is covered with pustules (miliary pimples) in more or less quantity according to the previous healthy or unhealthy condition of the body. After these pustules come out, the fever subsides, and in about ten or twelve days dry off and fall into dust. This is the third period.

The Small Pox is usually of mild, according to the malignity of the contagion or the bad nature of the humors of the patient; it is very rarely before, and his humors in a corrupt state, he is infinitely more exposed to danger than if he had enjoyed perfect health before the attack; for, the blood being weighed down by the previous corrupt state of the humors, has not the power to resist the disease—and in this case the result must, therefore, be mortal, provided no preventive course has been employed. The third period cannot take place in consequence of it; blood not having the power to throw the humors out, so the skin pustules.

The Preventive Course.

When the contagion has spread in the City or Country, the poorer every one commences purifying his body by purgation, the better, and should any of the above symptoms present themselves just take the Brandreth's Pills every twelve hours, so as to produce powerful evacuations—supposing that the fever arose not from the Small Pox, the patient will get rid of the disease, no matter how called, and the object in view as to health will have no mark upon the skin, and the patient cured by this practice will not be exposed to the different inconveniences which are so often the consequences of this disease.

If the principle of purgation were but well understood no one would be afraid of the Small Pox any more than of a common cold. There would be no need of vaccination, vaccination either, people would be too wise then, they would know that all the diseases would be removed EFFECTUALLY and without danger by simply evacuating the bowels and thus purifying the blood until the disease was cured. At three or four days of this practice, how many warts, warts, warts, perhaps years, of sickness might it not prevent! Fathers and mothers of families, reflect, is only your duty to yourselves and your dear children to reflect upon these things and be advised in time. Should vaccination be decided upon, let the body be put in a healthy state previously, by the use of the Pills. But for my part I do not think much is gained by vaccination—however, let the advice above be taken, and no danger can result from it or inoculation or the genuine Small Pox. All will be well if purgation be resorted to so as to produce a repletion of the humors.

Your obedient servant,

B. BRANDRETH, M. D.

N. B. Be careful and never purchase Pills of a Druggist professing to be Brandreth's Pills, under any circumstances, as any one of this class made an Agent. My own established agents have INVALUABLE AN EXHAUSTIVE Certificate, signed "B. Brandreth, M. D.," in my own hand writing.

This certificate is renewed yearly, and when ever twelve months add it no longer guarantees the genuineness of the medicine. It would be well, therefore, for purchasers to carefully examine the Certificate. The seal is not wax, but embossed on the paper with a steel seal.

If the genuine medicine is obtained there is no doubt of its giving perfect satisfaction, and if all who want it are careful to buy by the above directions there is but little danger but they will obtain it.

Sole Agents in Maine will hereafter receive their supplies from the New England Office.

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THE ONLY OFFICE IN BOSTON FOR DR. BRANDRETH'S VEGETABLE UNIVERSAL PILLS,

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Who is DR. BRANDRETH'S daily authorized Travelling Agent for the State of Maine.

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B. BRANDRETH, M. D.

241 Broadway, N. Y.

Sole proprietor of Brandreth's Vegetable Universal Pills.

April 13, 1840.

HEBRON ACADEMY.